

From: Donald W. MacVittie
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 12:14am
Subject: Proposed Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern;

As a professional software developer and a freelance technology writer, I feel the need to write concerning the currently proposed settlement.

From an historical perspective, Microsoft as an entity has been beligerent and hostile to court orders. There is no reason to believe that this attitude will change. A simple review of the number of contempt cases Microsoft has been a defendant in makes this trend clear.

With this in mind, I firmly believe that any settlement that leaves Microsoft intact is a disservice to the public at large. I do not mean to disparage the items included in the proposed settlement, I just don't believe they can be effective.

The only solution that I feel is guaranteed to stop Microsoft's anti-competitive practices and allow the computer industry to progress beyond Microsoft's limited vision of the future is to split the company into at least three (3) separate entities. At a minimum, the company should be split into "desktop systems", "server systems", and "development tools". All communications between these organizations would have to be at the level that current competitors are given access.

I believe in an open and competitive market. I believe that the government should be business friendly. I just do not feel that the interests of a single big-business are the best interests of business in general.

Thank you for your time,
Don.

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